(b) whether report of his Ministry's Directorate of Statistics and Economist points total loading upto July, 2006 was less than the targets by 2.73 millions and 5.26 millions tones respectively and the loss of Rs.103,81 crores was reported from the seven zones;

(c) whether his Ministry is considering for private investment to the tune of Rs.5000 crores; and

(d) whether his Ministry would be in rolling stock and other infrastructure and would be routed through public-private partnership?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. The operating indices of wagon kilometers per wagon per day (Broad Gauge) in 2005-06 was 211.2 as compared to 204.5 in 2004-05 and freight loading upto November, 2006 was 242.42 million tonnes more than the loading achieved during the corresponding period of last year.

(b) The loading during the month of July, 2006 and during the period upto end of July, 2006 were less than the proportionate targets by 2.73 million tonnes and 5.26 million tonnes respectively. There was no shortfall in total earnings upto July, 2006. There was an excess of Rs.473.44 crores in total earnings upto July, 2006 as compared to the budget proportion.

(c) and (d) Several areas such as private operation of Container Trains, investment in Wagon Investment Scheme, port connectivity projects, hospitality & tourism and joint venture projects for setting up of Production Untis for rolling stock etc. have been identified for possible execution through public-private partnership route. No investment target has been fixed.

Gauge Conversion of Rewari-Bikaner section

†2709. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state that by when the work of gauge conversion would be taken up in view of its requirement on Rewari-Bikaner via Sadulpur-Churu section of North-Western Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI R. VELU): On Rewari-Bikaner section, Rewari to Sadulpur gauge conversion has already been taken up. Regarding gauge conversion of remaining portion from Sadulpur to Bikaner, an updating survey has been completed and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

proposal has been processed for obtaining the requisite clearances. The work would be taken up once it receives requisite clearances and is included in the Budget.

Beautification of Muzaffarnagar station

2710. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the beautification of Muzaffarnagar railway station in Uttar Pradesh during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the tendering process has since been completed and work has been awarded; and

(d) what is the quantum of fund proposed to be spent on the beautification drive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. the proposal for beautification of Muzaffarnagar railway station in Uttar Pradesh include the following works:

(i) Improvement to circulating area of Muzaffarnagar station to remove congestion, and

(ii) Replacement of Galvanised Iron sheet of waiting hall with meta colour sheet.

(c) and (d) Tendering process has been taken up and Rs.35 lakhs has been earmarked for beautification of Muzaffarnagar station.

Electrification of Trichy-Kanyakumari rail line

2711. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would approve the electrification of the railway line between Trichy to Kanyakumari;

(b) the total allotment made for various ongoing and new projects in Tamil Nadu and total expenditure as on 1st November,2006;